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Undocumented Immigrants Pay Hundreds of Millions in State taxes

Amount is between \$200 and \$300 million

Richmond, VA -- Despite what some believe, undocumented immigrants in Virginia pay hundreds of millions of dollars each year into state and local tax coffers through sales, excise, property, and state income taxes.

“The fact is no one can avoid paying these taxes and live in the commonwealth,” says Aaron Williams, research assistant at The Commonwealth Institute for Fiscal Analysis, an economic and policy research organization in Richmond. Williams is coauthor of the institute’s recent report that looked at the issue. “When you buy a shirt, you pay a tax. They don’t check your immigration status.”

According to the report, undocumented immigrants pay between \$200 million and \$304 million in taxes each year in the state in three key areas: sales and excise taxes (\$106 million-\$135 million); property taxes (\$52 million-\$67 million); and income taxes (\$43 million-\$102 million).

That undocumented immigrants pay income taxes might surprise some people, says Institute President Michael Cassidy. “Contrary to popular belief, most are working on the books and have income taxes withheld from their paychecks,” he said. Between 67 percent and 75 percent of undocumented immigrants pay state income taxes.

The full report is available online at www.thecommonwealthinstitute.org.

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The Commonwealth Institute for Fiscal Analysis provides credible, independent, and accessible information and analyses of fiscal and economic issues with particular attention to the impacts

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